III. REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-21, and 23-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 17, 18, 25, 27, and 28 have been amended and claims 6, 8, and 22 have been cancelled. This amendment is being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments and/or pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 27 have been amended to correct informalities noted in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 9-12, 14-15, 17, 18, and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over United States Patent No. 6,035,423 to Hodges *et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed. As explained below, claims 1, 17, 25, and 28, from which all other rejected claims depend, have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the Hodges *et al.* reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the step of modifying "the authentication system during the conducting step without requiring a reboot." Support for this limitation can be found at page 13, lines 1-4 of the application. Applicant asserts that neither the Hodges *et al.* reference nor any other reference cited by the Office or known to Applicant teaches modification of the authentication system at runtime. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 22 is rejected over the Hodges *et al.* reference, the Office asserting that "the updating is being processed in the background of the user's workstation or terminal without user interaction, therefore the process of logging [onto] the terminal and auto executing of updated program is without user interaction..." Office Action at 9. Applicant asserts, however, that the Office is misinterpreting the "userless logon" of the present invention and the "antivirus updating steps" of the Hodges *et al.* reference. Specifically, Applicant asserts that the "userless logon" of the present invention is truly userless, in that a user is not required to log onto the workstation at any point prior to the computer program conducting the non-authentication task using an authentication system of the workstation.

Contrarily, the Hodges *et al.* reference requires a user to log onto the workstation. Referring to FIG. 4, column 7, lines 28-39 of the Hodges *et al.* reference states:

> At step 408 the antivirus update agent transmits a sequence of information packets to the central antivirus server 308 for notifying the central antivirus server 308 that a TCP/IP connection and a Web browser have been activated at client computer 302. Among the information transmitted from client computer 302 to central antivirus server 308 are two items of data used for achieving automated download and updating of antivirus files on client computer 302. In particular, (a) the IP address 305 of client computer 302 (e.g., 205.84.4.137), and (b) a unique user ID (e.g., "BJONES01234") are transmitted to central antivirus server 308.

In addition, as shown in FIG. 4 of the Hodges *et al.* reference, no tasks can be executed until a web browser is invoked by a user. Further, because notification of the central antivirus server that a web browser has been invoked includes the transmission of both an IP address and a user's ID, execution of the virus update necessarily requires that a user has already logged onto the workstation. This is quite different from "logging [onto] the terminal and auto executing of updated program [ ] without user interaction..." Office Action at 9. That is, while the Hodges *et al.* reference teaches the execution of antivirus updates without direct interaction by a user (*i.e.*, the updates are executed in the "background"), it does not teach the execution of such tasks

without a user logging onto the workstation, as in the present invention and as recited in claim 22. It is clear, therefore, that the authentication system of the Hodges *et al.* reference, which requires the verification of a user via use of a User ID, is different than the authentication system of the present invention, which permits the userless logon to a workstation via a task module.

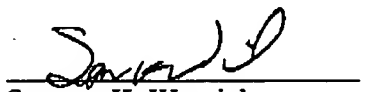
Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 22 that "the task module includes a logon system configured to conduct a userless logon of the workstation." Claims 25 and 28 have been amended to include the same limitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 8, 13, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Hodges *et al.* reference in view of United States Patent No. 6,418,555 to Mohammed. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled. For the reasons given above with respect to claims 1 and 17, Applicant asserts that each of claims 13, 16, and 19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Hodges *et al.* reference in view of United States Patent No. 5,764,922 to Kullick *et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed. For the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, Applicant asserts that claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the application. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicant, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 14, 2004

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